1   Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using

2   radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3   for a current transaction, reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

4   during the current transaction, storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID

5   tag affixed to each of at least one items being paid for by a shopper in the current transaction,

6   such that the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by the

7   shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were

8   paid for in the current transaction.

1   Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer

2   identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty

3   card.

1   Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps

2   of:

3   subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the

4   item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from

5   the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

6   for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

7   identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, concluding that the item to which the

8   item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

1   Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3   reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier;

4   searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying

5   RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer

6   loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

7   concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not

8   paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the searching step fails to locate the customer

9   identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

1   Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer

2   identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of

2   storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when

3   the items are paid for during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation of the

4   searching step.

1   Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of

2   remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an

3   establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the

4   searching and concluding steps omit the remembered items.

1   Claim 8 (previously presented): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection

2   using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3   means for reading, for a current transaction, a customer identifier from a customer loyalty

4   card; and

5   means for storing, during the current transaction, the customer identifier in an item-

6   identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items being paid for by a shopper in the

7   current transaction, such that the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items

8   possessed by the shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one

9   possessed items were paid for in the current transaction.

1   Claim 9 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 8, wherein the customer identifier

2   is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   Claim 10 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

2   means for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the

3   shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer

4   identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

5   for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

6   identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, means for concluding that the item to

7   which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

    means for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier;

    means for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

    means for concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the means for searching fails to locate the customer identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, wherein the customer identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when the items are paid for during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation of the means for searching.

Claims 15 - 21 (canceled)

1   Claim 22 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means

2   for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an

3   establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the means

4   for searching and means for concluding omit the remembered items.

Claim 23 (canceled)